

Parole Process

The Virginia Parole Board reviews all eligible inmates. The review process involves a comprehensive evaluation. The factors used include but are not limited to the following:

- Crime
- Criminal Record
- New Conviction as an inmate
- Parole/Probation violation
- Prison conduct
- Victim input and input from concerned citizens
- Institutional Employment
- Institutional Program Completion
- Community/Family support

Once a decision is certified, granted inmates are released according to Virginia Parole Board policy and procedures. Inmates denied parole receive a letter stipulating the reasons. Reasons for denying parole indicate that the criteria for release have not been met and reflect the Board's concern for public safety. The following explanations are offered to assist in understanding the Board's reasons for not granting parole:

- **Serious Nature and Circumstances of the Crime.** Reflects the harm committed or caused to others, the magnitude of the crime, and its impact on the community. For example, Murder, Rape, Sodomy, Robbery, Abduction, and use of a Weapon. Includes potential risk to the community if released
- **Prior Failure under Community Supervision.** This refers to an inmate's proven inability to function in the community and to abide by the rules of supervision. May include new criminal convictions or technical violations such as drug use, failure to attend treatment programs or follow instructions.
- **Record of major institutional infractions - not ready to conform to society.** Refers to inmate's inability to follow prison rules. All violations are considered serious, however among the most serious are assault, fighting, sex charges, drug charges, inciting a riot, and escape.
- **Conviction of new crime while incarcerated.** An inmate whose criminal behavior continues while incarcerated demonstrates a lack of respect for laws and a risk to the community. For example, convictions for acts of violence, drug use/distribution, sex crimes, or weapon offenses.
- **Serious disregard for property rights of others.** Refers to breaking into a business or residence and/or stealing property and includes a variety of

felonies and misdemeanors such as burglary, larceny, fraud, and embezzlement.

- **Involvement with drugs indicates disregard for the welfare of others.** Refers to felons who sell or profit from the sale of drugs at the expense of the welfare of the community. For example, distribution or possession with Intent to distribute heroin, cocaine, marijuana, PCP, hallucinogens and legal drugs obtained illegally.
- **Use of drugs indicates your disregard for the law.** Refers to the involvement in the use of drugs or the encouragement of others to use drugs such as heroin, cocaine, marijuana, PCP, hallucinogens and legal drugs obtained illegally.
- **Release at this time would diminish seriousness of crime.** Refers to crimes which are especially vile or the victim or victims particularly vulnerable such as murder, rape, sodomy, abduction.
- **Prior offense history indicates disregards for the law.** Refers to inmates who demonstrate a lengthy pattern of criminal behavior which indicates little likelihood that change will occur.
- **Board needs to see a longer period of development to warrant parole consideration.** This refers to inmates who are beginning to demonstrate positive changes but the Board is still reluctant to release. The Board is acknowledging the change and encouraging continued improvement such as fewer infractions, more program completion, reduction in security status, or completion of a work release program.
- **No interest in Parole.** Refers to eligible parole inmates who are not interested in being considered for parole. Inmates who are not interested in parole are required to sign a PB16 form indicating their lack of interest.
- **Progress report review in six months.** Refers to a Board request to review the case again in six months to determine if sufficient progress has been made to warrant parole.